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**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**OF THE**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**COMMISSION**  
**FOR THE BLIND**

**FOR THE**  
**FISCAL YEAR 1976 - 1977**



Printed Under the Direction of the  
State Budget and Control Board



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**OF THE**  
**SOUTH CAROLINA**  
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**FOR THE BLIND**  
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**FISCAL YEAR 1976 - 1977**



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COMMISSION BOARD	
Mr. Allen C. ...	Chairman
Mr. W. ...	...
Mrs. ...	...
Mrs. ...	...
Mr. ...	...

The South Carolina Commission for the Blind is in compliance with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI and all requirements imposed pursuant thereto to the end that no person shall, on the grounds of sex, race, color or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the provision of any care or service. Any client participant, potential client, or interested person who is of the opinion that Benefits are provided on a discriminatory basis has the right to file a complaint with the State Agency or Federal Agency or both.

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The South Carolina State Personnel Division was very complimentary of the progress achieved by the SCCB in personnel action for fiscal year 76-77. The Division noted the rapid recruitment, high quality of personnel, and the relatively stable turnover rate of the Division. The Division noted that the SCCB was in compliance with the provisions of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title VI and all requirements imposed pursuant thereto to the end that no person shall, on the grounds of sex, race, color or national origin be excluded from participation in, be denied benefits of or be otherwise subjected to discrimination in the provision of any care or service. Any client participant, potential client, or interested person who is of the opinion that Benefits are provided on a discriminatory basis has the right to file a complaint with the State Agency or Federal Agency or both.



# south carolina commission for the blind

1430 CONFEDERATE AVENUE • COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA 29201  
TELEPHONE 758-2595

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

November 1, 1977

The Honorable James B. Edwards  
Governor of South Carolina  
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Governor Edwards:

Fiscal Year 1977 has been a period of gratifying achievements for the South Carolina Commission for the Blind (SCCB). The completion and dedication of a new comprehensive training and adjustment center for blind and visually impaired South Carolinians represents the type of goals met by SCCB staff members and officials during the past year.

The following report is indicative of the dedicated efforts put forth by everyone in order to meet the needs of the State's blind and visually impaired.

Your continued support, combined with that of the General Assembly, has played a major role in our services story. This dedicated concern increases our desire to strive for higher accomplishments in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

COMMISSION FOR THE BLIND

Maxine R. Bowles  
Interim Commissioner

MRB:cep

## COMMISSION BOARD

- Mr. Allan C. Mustard ..... Columbia  
Chairman
- Mr. W. Eugene Abrams ..... Anderson  
(term expired May 1977)
- Mrs. Earlene Gardner ..... Aiken  
(succeeded Abrams for four-year term)
- Mrs. Onnie D. Barham ..... Columbia
- Mr. A. Peter Anselmo ..... Florence
- Mr. Samuel L. Zimmerman ..... Greenville
- Mr. Richard B. Steele ..... Lancaster
- Dr. Clay W. Evatt, Jr. .... Charleston

## ADMINISTRATION

The administration of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind (SCCB) continued to provide leadership and direction of services for the state's legally blind and visually impaired during fiscal year 76-77. Many new and innovative programs, emphasizing an independent way of life, were placed in operation in order to better serve those South Carolinians in need.

Two committees formulated during fiscal year 75-76 began providing valuable input from consumers and interested citizens to insure better, quality services. The Business, Enterprise Managers Committee began operation with six representatives elected by members, and met with the SCCB Commissioner and Business Enterprise Supervisor to insure continued success of the program. The Consumer Advisory Committee was selected and oriented to the workings of the SCCB. Officers were elected and a preliminary report was submitted to the governing board of the SCCB on various issues needing attention.

The South Carolina State Personnel Division was very complimentary of the progress achieved by the SCCB in personnel action for fiscal year 76-77. The Division noted the rapport established between the SCCB and the classification and compensation, employee relations, recruiting, and insurance sections of the Division. Personnel activity was relatively stable during the fiscal year with a small 17% rate of turnover for the 12

## BOARD

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| ALLAN C. MUSTARD<br>Chairman<br>Columbia     | W. EUGENE ABRAMS<br>Vice-Chairman<br>Anderson | MRS. ONNIE BARHAM<br>Secretary<br>Columbia       | A. PETER ANSELMO<br>Member<br>Florence |
| SAMUEL LEE ZIMMERMAN<br>Member<br>Greenville | RICHARD B. STEELE<br>Member<br>Lancaster      | CLAY W. EVATT, JR., M.D.<br>Member<br>Charleston |  |



month period. During this time there were 27 new hires, 22 terminations, and 8 reclassifications. (Eight of the 145 positions in the SCCB were vacant at the end of the fiscal year). Services were expanded under an innovation and expansion grant by employing two rehabilitation instructors with majors in home economics to work with home-bound blind in the Midlands area of the State. These services had never been available to clients in this geographic location and, combined with instructors already working in the Piedmont and Low Country, marked an important step forward for the agency.

The close of the State Fiscal year 1977 showed a lapse of \$37,038 in appropriated funds. The total budget for Fiscal Year 1977 was \$3,844,803, a 16% or \$519,686 increase over the Fiscal Year 1976 total of \$3,325,117.

The Commission continued its emphasis on staff development. Compared to the previous fiscal year, there was a 13% increase in funds encumbered for training. Ninety-two percent of the total Agency staff were involved in one or more training activities. There was a total of 65 training events during the year in which the Agency sponsored participants.

In keeping with its goal of having all professional staff members obtain a graduate degree, SCCB increased its tuition support program by 29% over the previous fiscal year.

While the evaluation of the impact of the given training activity is a difficult area, it is clear that the total staff development effort does have impact on program performance in a positive manner.

Cooperative programs and ventures between the SCCB and other public and private agencies provided beneficial assistance to clients and those individuals with visual impairments. An agreement with the South Carolina Commission on Aging to provide rehabilitative and recreational counseling at the SCCB Training Center for the State's elderly blind was a tremendous success. The participants received individual assistance in areas ranging from personal hygiene to bowling, and the one week seminar gave instructors a chance to work closely with the elderly blind.

Ongoing agreements with other public and private organizations maintained services that have proven beneficial over and over again. The Mobile Eye Screening Clinic, operated in conjunction with the South Carolina Lions Sight Conservation Association, increased its effort to reach, at each stop, as many people as possible that may have

an eye condition that will lead to blindness. The van's appointment calendar has been booked solid into the later part of 1978.

Along the same lines, pathology clinics sponsored by the SCCB in various parts of the State continued their successful campaign. A new, fully equipped low vision clinic was established in the new Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center for the Blind in Columbia.

The success of Camp Leo, a summer camp for blind and visually impaired children in South Carolina, has become internationally known. The joint effort of the SCCB and the Hilton Head Island Lion's Club brought together some 65 children during the second annual gathering. Similar agencies for the blind in other states have requested information on the camp in hopes of reaping the benefits for their children and counselors.

Possibly the biggest and most treasured event of the period between July 1, 1976 and June 30, 1977, was the opening and dedication of the new Training and Adjustment Center of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind. It is known as the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center for the Blind. Distinguished speakers and honored guests joined interested citizens in celebrating the accomplishments of a six-year drive to provide the very best in a training and adjustment center for the state's blind and visually impaired. This new 73-thousand square foot facility has been recognized as the most modern in the Southeast.

Administratively, the SCCB remained an effective agent in procuring services and assistance for the blind and visually impaired of South Carolina during Fiscal Year 1976-77. Outdated methods of operations were eliminated, current procedures were streamlined and new, innovative projects were implemented to mold the SCCB into a health delivery system that met the needs at hand on a prompt and efficient basis.

## VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

Vocational Rehabilitation is a process by which the blind and visually impaired are helped toward gainful activity and employment. It is restorative in nature, and encompasses evaluation, orientation, adjustment, physical restoration, job placements and follow-ups with the end goal being total independence.

An Innovation and Expansion (I&E) Grant resulted in the hiring of two more home teachers to work in conjunction with the



rehabilitation program and the Educational Radio for the Blind Network. These two instructors recorded radio programs on basic home management skills that were aired over the network, and then visited the clients to monitor their response to the lessons. Evaluations were made and the results of the training were relayed to the client's counselor.

The Orientation and Mobility Division of the SCCB was asked to participate in a research project sponsored by the American Institute of Research. The project was a nine month evaluation on the effects an electronic travel aid may have on an individual's daily life. Secondary level and college level students in the midlands area of South Carolina, along with children served by the Atlanta Area Services for the Blind and San Francisco State College will be tested to see which device is best for them and what changes the device may bring about in terms of mobility habits. Devices being used in the research project include the laser cane, the Russell Pathsounder, the Sonic Guide and the Nottingham Obstacle Detector. Screenings with the children began in September.

The SCCB Rehabilitation program continued to meet and exceed goals established by the regional and federal offices for the twelve month period. This meant more clients were being served and more cases were being closed out successfully. There were 314 successful closures at the end of the year, 104 of those occurring in the last quarter.

The Mobile Rehabilitation Units increased their productivity during the year. Together, Areas I and II increased the number of clients served by 51%. These statistics demonstrate the validity of such mobile teaching units, and the need to keep reaching out to find those who need counseling and training.

### **BUSINESS ENTERPRISE**

The Business Enterprise Program (BEP) of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind (SCCB) experienced continued growth and involvement on the part of the general public during Fiscal Year 1977.

There were 80 locations (concession stands) in South Carolina at the end of Fiscal Year 1977. Average operator income at the end of the period was \$10,401.36, up 1% from the previous year. Gross sales increased 7% from \$2,118,571 to \$2,259,354.86.

One particular location new to the BEP is the mobile vending

stand, presently operating in Charleston. The mobile stand is 8'X18'X10' high, has a 12-thousand pound load capacity, and includes all the hardware found in a regular stand, such as; a refrigerator, cooler, freezer, coffee and cold drink dispensers, a microwave oven, a three section sink, a toilet, electric heat and air conditioning and water storage tanks.

This roving business was the result of many months of planning and surveys conducted by the SCCB staff. The results have been gratifying, as the stand has surpassed its set goals in search of higher productivity.

The Business Enterprise Managers Committee buckled down to serious work during the fiscal year and helped to smooth out some of the rough edges in the day to day operations of a location. Amendments to the Randolph-Sheppard Act were considered and acted upon by the committee and SCCB officials in the best interest of all stand managers. The committee worked diligently during the fiscal year, and the future of the BEP looks very good.

### **HOME INDUSTRIES (BLINDCRAFT)**

Homebound blind persons unable to compete in the labor market can obtain work and supplemental income through the Home Industries Program (Blindcraft) of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind (SCCB).

Through the use of Commission staff instructors, participants are taught to make certain marketable products. Upon completion of the training period, shipments of raw materials purchased at cost from the SCCB are sent to the worker's home. In the home, the clients manufacture items such as dolls, sun bonnets and some knitted articles. Once completed, the merchandise is returned to the SCCB's retail and wholesale outlet, known as Blindcraft. Items are then inspected and placed on the market. All sales and profits are returned to the worker at home.

A minor reorganization of the Blindcraft program was made during the twelve month period covered in this report. The changes involved a phase-out of some of the items produced in the shop over the years, and the addition of a mobile exhibit.

Designs for more up-to-date products were incorporated into the



training program, and workers were taught to manufacture more marketable items.

The Blindcraft mobile exhibit took to the road in the summer of Fiscal Year 1977, displaying to the general public the wares of blind and visually impaired South Carolinians. The van itself is very light and can be pulled behind a trailer to craft shows, fairs and community outings with ease. A number of civic clubs began borrowing the van to sell Blindcraft items to make money for their respective coffers.

Blindcraft continued to market items in every state in the nation and in several places overseas. Locally, the outlet began an advertising drive to attract local patrons to the new store in the Ellen Beach Mack Rehabilitation Center for the Blind.

### **DISABILITY DETERMINATION**

The Disability Determination Unit of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind (SCCB) received special recognition during the Fiscal Year 1977. The Disability Determination Unit Coordinator received the Director's citation for her contribution in administering the disability determination process for visually impaired applicants for disability benefits in this State.

Overall administration, including processing time, unit cost, and successful applications are just a few of the areas considered in choosing a winner. The presentation of the award was visible recognition of a program vital to this segment of the South Carolina population.

### **PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS**

The Prevention of Blindness Department of the South Carolina Commission for the Blind is the only program of the agency that is entirely funded with state monies. There are no federal dollars involved in this particular program. The department primarily offers eye care and treatment for those persons who do not meet the eligibility requirements of the Rehabilitation Department. This care may include eye examinations, medication, surgery or counseling.

Services offered by Prevention continued to reach more clients during Fiscal Year 1977, especially by way of the mobile eye screening van. This mobile clinic, operated in conjunction with the South Carolina Lion's Sight Conservation Association continued to travel

the state conducting eye screenings for visual acuity and glaucoma, free to the public. There were 11,090 screenings performed during the year.

Work continued in various pathology clinics with examinations for Rehabilitation, Medicaid and Prevention clients. A new clinic was in the process of being established in Sumter to operate similar to the ones in Walterboro, Orangeburg, and Aiken.

Prevention workers completed the task of placing a disease code next to an individual's name on the Commission Register for the Blind and Visually Impaired Persons. This code allows a worker to have the necessary medical information on hand at all times.

Total hospitalizations and surgery climbed to 767 during the year, 1,249 visual aids were prescribed, and medical and eye examinations, including glaucoma rechecks, totaled 6,817.

### **SPECIAL SERVICES**

Blind and visually impaired campers, ages 7 to 15, enjoyed the second annual version of Camp Leo during the year, and received more instructions in adjusting to blindness with slight reorganizations of the camp program. This year's camp focused more on how to do things, rather than how many things could be done in a week's time. Extended use of educational materials for pre-schoolers and their parents was evident throughout the period. Workshops to help the parents and the children were held to learn to cope and work with whatever impairments may exist with a particular child. There was a 12% increase during the year in the total child caseload handled by this department.

Volunteers continued their drive toward the needs of the blind and visually impaired. Arrangements were made to have members of the Retired Senior Volunteers Program (RSVP) work with some of the Commission clients to help in any way possible. The volunteer coordinator began a program to recruit readers for transcribing printed material onto audio tape for use by students, clients, and for the radio station. This department registered a 62% increase in the number of volunteers hours contributed during Fiscal Year 1977.

The Materials and Textbook Center carried on its vital operation with dedication and hard work to prepare materials for each request. Staff members continued to produce large print, braille and cassette packages of information at a steady rate. The Talking Book



Machines were kept in working order and distributed according to requests. Clients were reassured that when they needed something, it could be found in the center or the center could find it for them elsewhere. There was an 81% increase in the number of cassette players in operation and a 79% increase in the number of large print volumes in circulation.

Radio programming from the Educational Radio for the Blind Network expanded to meet growing needs during the year. The addition of two more employees gave the operation a chance to produce more material of special interest to the listeners, like a report on what is happening with the clients in training at the Columbia center. The new Columbia station opened a clear channel for Midlands area listeners and gave the network coverage in the State's three largest metropolitan areas, with the capabilities of broadcasting different programs to four different locations at one time. Home teachers from the Rehabilitation department worked with radio personnel in taping programs dealing with home maintenance, cooking and cleaning. Once the programs are aired, the teachers traveled into the field to evaluate the results with each listener. Saturday broadcasting began and plans were being made to extend the "on-air" time to Sunday, too. At the end of the fiscal year there were over 600 listeners, a 12% increase, tuned to the SCCB "wavelength".

## SOURCE OF FUNDS

Fiscal Year 1976-1977

### 1. FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

Receipts (Vocational Rehabilitation,  
Trust Funds and Disability Determination) .. \$2,351,459

### 2. STATE GOVERNMENT

Balance from Prior Year .....	\$ 9,226
Regular Appropriation .....	1,540,343
Lapsed .....	—37,038
Budget and Control Board Reduction .....	—25,000
Total .....	1,487,531
Donations .....	5,813

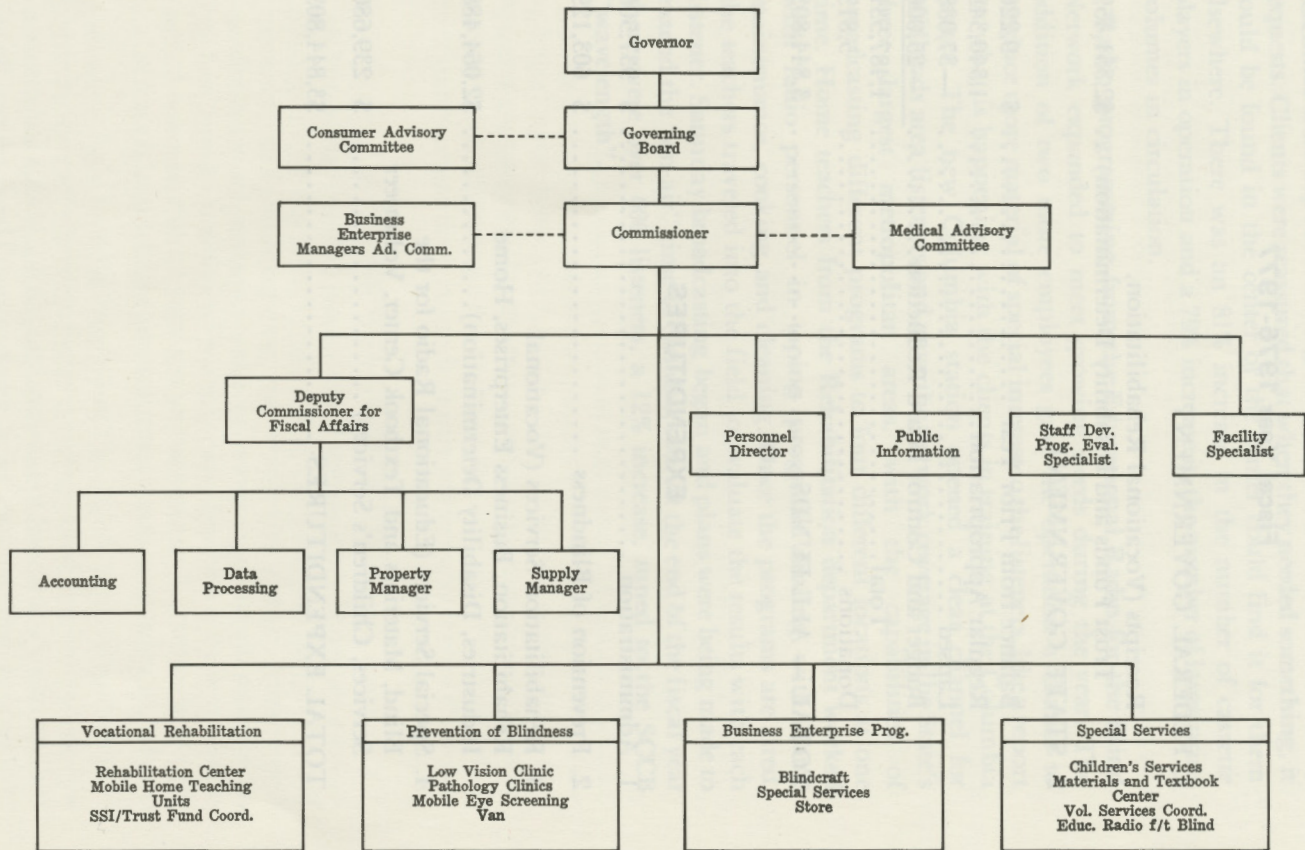
TOTAL — ALL FUNDS ..... 3,844,803

## EXPENDITURES

1. Administration .....	\$ 937,506
2. Prevention of Blindness .....	\$ 603,129
3. Rehabilitation Services (Vocational Rehabilitation, Business Enterprises, Home Industries, Disability Determination) .....	\$2,064,488
4. Special Services (Educational Radio for the Blind, Materials and Textbook Center, Volunteer Services, Children's Services) .....	\$ 239,680
TOTAL EXPENDITURES .....	\$3,844,803



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